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# IN OUR BACKYARD



AN UPDATE FROM THE ALBERTA SPECIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Fall 1994 Vol. 5 No.2

## 10th Anniversary Edition

### Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre's Open House.

CANADIANA

DEC 13 1994



MLA for Barrhead/  
Westlock Ken  
Kowalski and  
Swan Hills' Mayor  
Harold Junc  
presented a  
plaque to plant  
manager Vaughn  
Bullough to  
commemorate  
the completion,  
on time and on  
budget, of the  
new incineration  
facility. Al  
Maiani,  
Chairman of the  
Alberta Special  
Waste  
Management  
Corporation,  
looks on.

On Saturday, September 17, the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre held an open house to celebrate the completion of the new incineration facility. Approximately 400 visitors from near and far attended to participate in guided tours and learn more about Alberta's hazardous waste treatment capability.

Mr. Kowalski's speech focused on Alberta's leadership in the area of hazardous waste management, and stressed that Albertans should feel great pride in the achievements of the Alberta Special Waste Management System and in the foresight of the community of Swan Hills.



Produced quarterly by the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, "In Our Backyard" is intended to keep Albertans updated on hazardous waste management issues and solutions. You can contribute to the process by "recycling" this newsletter. Pass it on to a friend with your comments. Should you have any suggestions you wish to share, pass them on to us. Our address, phone and fax number are on page 12.

**WASTE WISE**  
Better Solutions for Hazardous Waste  
An Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation Initiative



# From Innovator To World Leader: Alberta's First Ten Years In Special Waste Management.

## THE WAY WE WERE:

### *A brief history of events preceding the establishment of The Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation*

#### 1947

With the discovery of oil at Leduc, Alberta's agricultural economy began a progressive shift to industrialization. A variety of industries began producing increasing volumes of special and hazardous wastes. ('Special' defines wastes which require special means of management or disposal.) Waste disposal was then largely uncontrolled with municipal dump sites absorbing most of the burden.

#### 1950

Waste management in Alberta consisted largely of municipal dumps, the only controls being regulations governing nuisances. Permission to locate a dump site was not needed and there were no controls on their operation.

#### 1960

Increased environmental concern resulted in the introduction of more

The industrial expansion of the 1970s brought good fortune to Alberta. But the rewards came with a price. The province experienced a substantial increase in the generation of waste - much of which could not be disposed of by conventional methods. Many of these materials were being improperly disposed of in landfills and sewage systems - a situation already common in other jurisdictions around the world.

At the time, no jurisdiction in North America had attempted to deal with the full spectrum of society's hazardous waste and no proven methodology existed. The most common response was that of storing waste until suitable treatment technology evolved - something that didn't sit well with Albertans.

A sampling of public opinion, conducted by the newly-formed Hazardous Waste Management Committee, showed that Albertans generally shared the attitude best expressed by newspaperman Elbert Hubbard in the 1800s. People who want milk, said Hubbard, should not seat themselves on a stool in the middle of a field in hope that a cow will back up to them.

### *Taking the Initiative*

Alberta chose to take the initiative by introducing the Hazardous Chemicals Act and Hazardous Waste Regulation - controls which were to establish a framework for the management of hazardous substances. After conducting public hearings in 1980, the Environment Council of Alberta (ECA) called for a provincial waste management plan and recommended that an umbrella environmental protection act be in place by 1985.

The plan recommended by the ECA included an integrated waste management system serving every area of the province. A treatment

plant located in central Alberta served by strategically-sited transfer stations and a specialized system of transportation would be the focus. Facilities would be built in modular fashion in an attempt to anticipate changing waste streams and the entire operation would be run as a cooperative endeavour between the public and private sectors.

It was a daunting proposition. The proposal amounted to a mega-project with little sign of immediate profit - and the possibility of spin-off benefits which nobody could quite define. Nonetheless, when the proposal was presented to Albertans with all the options explained, the response was generally positive. Public consultation showed that, like Elbert Hubbard catching his cow, people were less interested in waiting for a miracle than in finding a practical and environmentally sound solution.

### *Assigning Responsibility*

In 1982, the Special Waste Management Corporation Act was passed and Chem-Security Ltd. was selected to design, build and operate the treatment facility.

In 1984, the Government of Alberta established the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation (ASWMC) - a Crown Corporation with responsibility for the safe management, treatment and disposal of potentially hazardous wastes.

The collaboration of the public and private sector led to the successful creation of the Alberta Special Waste Management System.

Ten years later, the wisdom of those actions is beyond question.

- The public participation process, which led to the successful creation of Alberta's system, has become the model for





1985: the future site of the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre was studied by Bert Huffman, Dr. Walter Harris (former Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation board members), Joe Molho (former Mayor of Swan Hills), Jacquie Champion, Brenda Nelson (former employees of ASWMC), Lorne Mick (former board member and CEO of ASWMC) and Bill Mooney (former board member of ASWMC).

major environmental decisions.

- The proper management of present and future waste streams has been assured through the creation of a clear regulatory environment and management infrastructure.
- The safe treatment of all potentially hazardous wastes is provided at the technically-advanced Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre. The integrated system remains the only one of its kind in North America.
- The Treatment Centre is supported by the Alberta Special Waste Management System's province-wide collection and transfer operation.
- The establishment of the System has led to the development of the province's thriving waste services industry and the creation of the Environmental Services Association of Alberta.
- Alberta's system has developed expertise and unique technology which is now being sought out by international jurisdictions - most notably, the development of a patented transformer furnace which has made possible the

decontamination and recycling of all out-of-service PCB transformers in Alberta.

- Through province-wide waste minimization and education programs, the Corporation has increased public awareness and enlisted community cooperation in environmental protection.
- The evolution of the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre, marked by the recent major expansion, has brought the plant to a level at which it is scaled for self-sufficiency.
- With world-scale technology in place, Alberta can now contemplate the economic and environmental benefits of sharing its facilities with other Canadians.

### ***Hard Hats and Clear Heads***

Informed Albertans made this ambitious dream a reality.

In August 1982, when the Village of Ryley held a plebiscite on the proposed siting of Alberta's special waste management facility, 95 percent of eligible voters attended, and 77 percent of eligible voters indicated their support. Three

sophisticated dump sites known as modified landfills and sanitary landfills. This initiated a series of changes to waste disposal regulations culminating in The Control of Refuse Disposal Systems regulation of 1972.

## **1971**

Alberta committed itself to a process of industrial diversification. Realizing that this would result in increased waste production, the government created Alberta Environment, the first stand-alone department of the environment in Canada.

## **1971**

Alberta Environment assumed responsibility for the newly enacted Beverage Container Act and the Agricultural Chemicals Act, formerly the responsibility of Alberta Agriculture. Both Acts eventually produced significant improvements in specific aspects of waste handling.

## **1972**

Alberta Environment commenced an extensive study of the province's waste inventory and disposal practices. The resulting report, completed in March 1972, recommended immediate environmental monitoring to identify and characterize wastes, and the establishment of a disposal facility near Edmonton and a collection facility near Calgary. A subsequent study, delivered in November 1972, offered an Action Plan for the



treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes in the province.

## 1973

Alberta Environment received the first proposal for a hazardous waste disposal facility from TRICIL. The company proposed constructing and operating a \$5 million waste treatment facility which would operate with a deficit of about \$1 million. Cabinet rejected the proposal as too expensive.

## 1975

The Pollution Control Division of Alberta Environment reviewed solid waste handling and disposal in Alberta hospitals and concluded that health guidelines were not being adequately followed. Many hospital incinerators were pronounced inadequate and some were completely shut down.

## 1975-76

The Waste Management Branch of Alberta Environment was formed, taking responsibility for implementing improved management concepts for solid, liquid and hazardous wastes. Although the Board of Health's Refuse Disposal Regulations had then been in force for four years, they were having little impact on the way in which municipal waste disposal sites were being operated. The Branch successfully enlisted municipal cooperation in ensuring that every new disposal site be tested to avoid pollution of surface water or ground

weeks later, residents of the town of Swan Hills responded in

the U.S. and other revelations of environmental contamination were constantly in the headlines. The "Not In My Backyard" syndrome was common worldwide and it seemed the mere mention of the words "hazardous waste" could fill the streets with placards.

### Products that Pollute

Fortunately for Albertans, the hard-working communities of Ryley and Swan Hills recognized such wastes for what they are - the familiar residues of our homes, businesses and essential industries. Pointing to the sources of hazardous waste, one supporter put it this way: "Don't go looking at chemical companies, look under your kitchen sink."



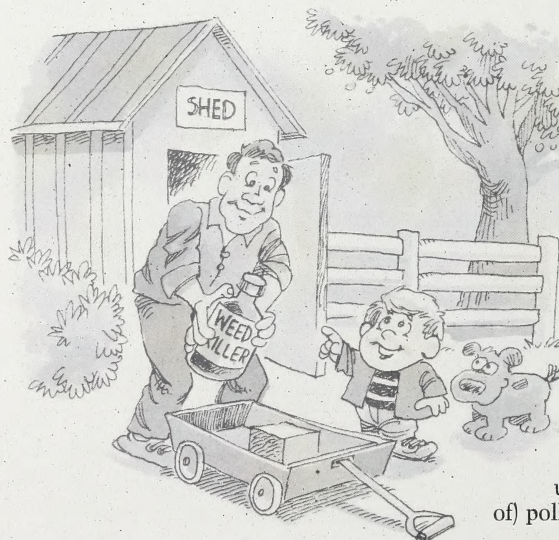
similar fashion. Sixty-nine percent of eligible voters participated. Seventy-nine percent voted in favour.

For the rest of North America, the size of the Yes vote came as a surprise. It was, after all, the time of the Love Canal scandal in

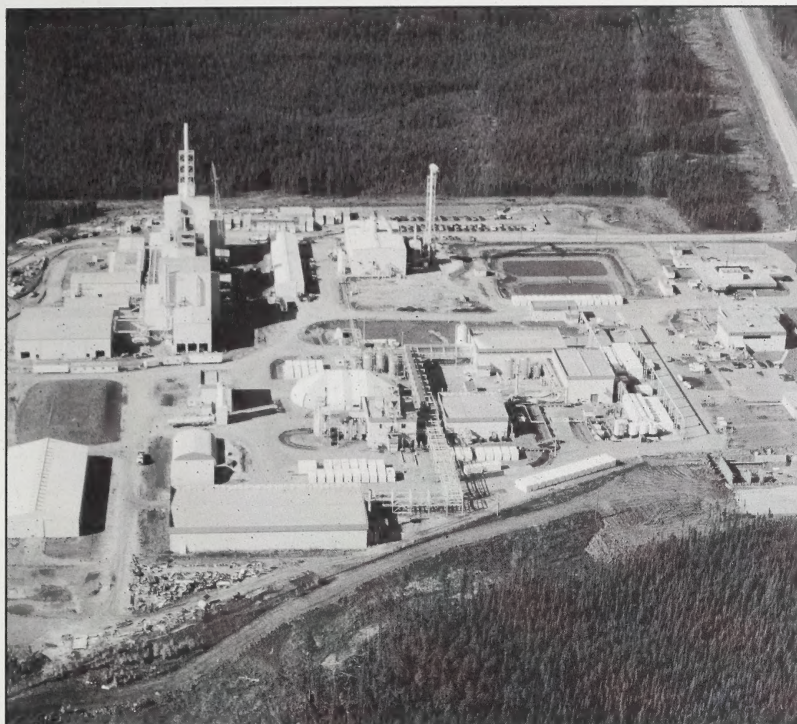


For these oil and gas workers, farmers and ranchers, the main concern with acids, PCBs, oil sludges and so on, was keeping the stuff out of the environment.

Swan Hills Town Councillor Joan Butler credits acceptance of the plant to the common sense of the townspeople. "Ninety percent of the men were working in the gas plants and they understood the (nature of) pollution." While the







*The Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre, located 18 km northeast of Swan Hills, has recently undergone a major expansion to increase its treatment capacity to 55 000 tonnes/year.*

doom sayers advocated stockpiling wastes until suitable technology became available, these rural communities supported the idea of tackling the problem head on.

## ***A Proud Day***

When the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre was eventually awarded to Swan Hills in 1984, the far-sightedness of its residents quickly became apparent. Construction of the plant had an immediate effect on the economy of the community, generating new residential construction, stimulating new business, and leading to improvements in education and healthcare.

It was fitting, therefore, that when Environment Minister Ken Kowalski officially declared the Centre open on September 11, 1987, local proponents of the project shared the applause with the planners and politicians. Interviewed afterwards, Mr. Kowalski emphasized the team-nature of the project - and added,

"I'll be proud until the day I die of the understanding and commitment of the people of Swan Hills."

## ***Treatment Methods***

Alberta's Special Waste Management System provides various forms of disposal and treatment for different wastes. Wastes and residues can be treated using a combination of biological, physical/chemical and thermal technologies. Complex molecules are destroyed or broken down into harmless common compounds; toxic components are stabilized; liquids are purified and gases scrubbed; and inert residues are landfilled or disposed of in an environmentally-acceptable manner.

## ***Safety First***

The new 40 000 tonnes per annum incineration system at the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre is designed to meet stringent environmental standards. Fifty per

water. Waste management practices generally improved - refuse being trenched instead of left uncovered, and new procedures being proposed to avoid waste burning.

## **1976**

Alberta Environment dedicated resources to training, education, research and development to improve waste management practices. The Waste Management Branch committed funds to build a demonstration landfill in the Crowsnest Pass. These initiatives established Alberta as one of the most progressive areas in North America in the field of waste management.

## **1979**

Alberta began investigating waste treatment technology, seeking equipment that met its commitment to an integrated system while satisfying high safety standards. Technology reviews continued till 1982.

## **1980**

The introduction of the Hazardous Chemicals Act and Hazardous Waste Regulation established a framework for the management of hazardous substances. After public hearings, the Environment Council of Alberta recommended that an umbrella environmental protection act be in place by 1985 - and called for the establishment of a Site Selection Committee to determine suitable potential sites for the establishment of a consolidated treatment plant for



hazardous wastes.

Alberta Environment concurred - with the insistence that any effort to site a facility in Alberta must take into account two primary considerations: environmental suitability (to be determined by constraint mapping) and public acceptability (to be determined by open public consultation).

## 1981

By spring, Alberta Environment's Hazardous Waste Task Force, working with the Hazardous Wastes Implementation Team - a group of private individuals representing the interests of Alberta citizens - had narrowed the selection of possible treatment centre sites down to four. 75 percent of Alberta counties had requested inclusion in the constraint mapping process. 52 sites were closely studied. The invitational nature of the siting process was vital to the eventual selection of Swan Hills - which was chosen for its environmental and social acceptability.

## 1981

The Minister of Municipal Affairs introduced the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Control Act.

## 1982

Plebiscites in the areas selected for possible location of the treatment site indicated a particularly high level of public support in the Village of Ryley and the Town of Swan Hills.



*Bulk solids are shipped in specially prepared, plastic lined, sealed gate dump trucks.*

cent of the system is devoted to safe waste receipt, handling and feed systems, 18 per cent to the actual combustion system, and 32 percent to pollution control systems.

### **Hot Stuff**

The Treatment Centre's new rotary kiln incinerates solids, liquids, sludges and drummed waste at approximately 1000° Celsius. Gases pass into a secondary combustion chamber where any remaining organic material (substances containing carbon) are converted to carbon dioxide and water at temperatures above 1200° Celsius. Combustion residues are stabilized if required, then disposed of in secure landfill cells.

### **Load Off Our Minds**

Waste from large-volume waste producers may enter the Alberta Special Waste Management System by direct transportation to the Treatment Centre or by the delivery of partial loads to either of two Transfer Stations in Calgary or Nisku.

### **Landfill Lab**

Among the research sponsored by the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation is an investigation of the decomposition

of potentially hazardous items placed in landfills. At the University of Alberta's Newton Research Centre, Civil Engineering Professor Chris Zeiss and assistants are engaged in a two-year study which will determine if certain household residues are cause for concern, whether there is a need for improved landfills, and whether some materials should be collected before they enter the landfill.

### **Cutting Back**

Although ASWMC continues to be mainly identified with the high-tech treatment of hazardous wastes, the Corporation has been equally active in the areas of education and information since its inception. Its Waste Minimization program, a collaborative effort with communities and industries, recognizes that the simplest way to cut the expenses of waste disposal is to reduce the volume at source.

The Corporation provides information and assistance in finding ways to: separate valuable components for reuse or recycling, reduce the volume of waste requiring treatment, render the waste less hazardous, and facilitate the recovery of water or energy.



## ***From Idea To We're Here***

Ten years ago, it was little more than an idea. Today, the Environmental Services Association of Alberta (ESAA) is a soundly-based business association offering a variety of services to members and the general public alike. Need information on environmental liability insurance? Want to conduct a seminar on waste handling? Wondering about jobs in the environment industry? The ESAA is the place to start.

Founded with the assistance of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation in 1988, the Association was originally the Alberta Special Waste Services Association, and consisted mainly of companies sub-contracting waste transportation services to the Alberta Special Waste Management System.

It wasn't long, however, before the Association outgrew its name.

Other groups and individuals quickly recognized the benefits of information sharing through a central organizing body - and the group soon began attracting members from such areas as environmental consulting, research, engineering and education.

To date, the ESAA membership exceeded 350 companies involved in the buying and selling of industrial environmental services. Members of the Association benefit in many ways - but particularly from the ESAA's involvement in technology transfer, professional development and education, research and information, and market development. The Association provides regular updates on environmental legislation and regulations, distributes information on new technology and trends, and encourages skills enhancement through workshops, seminars and professional development courses.

If you're interested in receiving

In August, Ryley had a 95 percent turn-out with 77 percent of those voting in favour of the facility. In September, 69 percent of eligible Swan Hills voters participated with 79 percent supporting the facility. Detailed hydrogeological site assessments were carried out in both sites to ensure their environmental suitability.

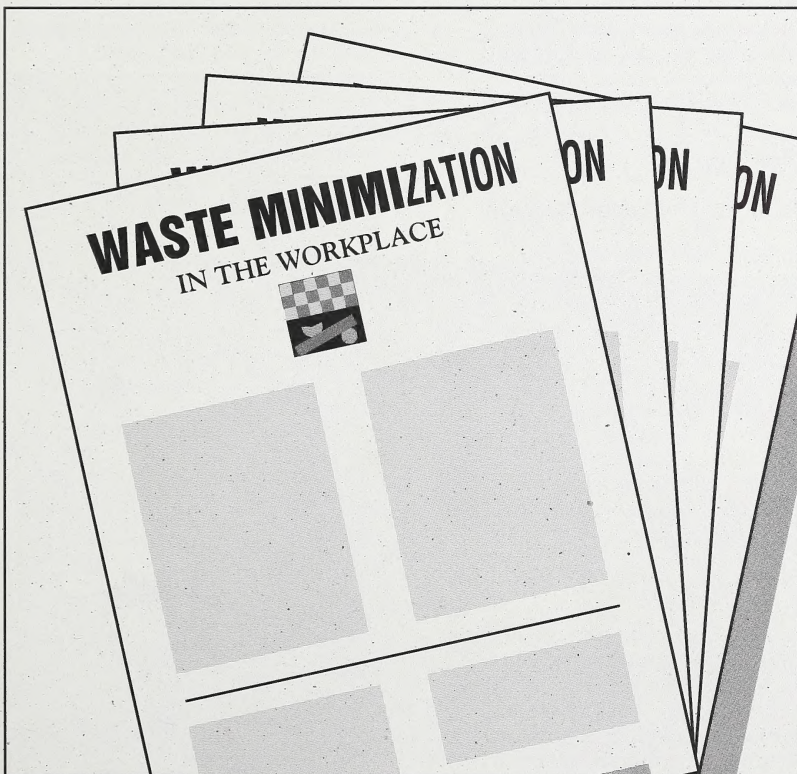
### **1982**

Alberta Environment's assistance program had helped establish nearly a dozen properly-operated regional landfills. Refuse disposal regulations were reviewed to address the problem of waste burning at unsupervised facilities.

### **1982**

The Special Waste Management Corporation Act was tabled in the Alberta Legislature. It called for the Corporation to ensure the establishment, operation and maintenance of facilities to deal with the management of hazardous wastes, in a manner that would protect public health and safety and the environment.

The Crown Corporation would ensure that, where practicable, such facilities were established, operated and maintained by the private sector. The Corporation would own the land on which the proposed Treatment Centre was located and provide site infrastructure. The Corporation would not be a regulatory body, but would be



*Waste Minimization Fact Sheets, developed jointly by the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation and Alberta Environmental Protection, provide the waste generator with information regarding waste minimization opportunities.*



expected to use the power of 'moral persuasion' over the owner/operator of facilities.

## 1982

19 companies answered Alberta's Request for Proposal to build the waste treatment facility. After meetings with the Alberta Environment's Technical Review Committee, four of these proposals merited further examination and in June, the committee unanimously recommended Chem-Security Ltd.

## 1983

The communities of Swan Hills and Ryley actively sought the treatment facility.

## 1984

On March 12, the Town of Swan Hills was selected as the site of the treatment facility by a decision of the Alberta Cabinet. On April 1st, The Government of Alberta proclaimed The Special Waste Management Corporation Act and the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation was formed.

more information, call the ESAA in Edmonton at 439-6363.

## *The Other Part of the Task*

Five years after Alberta established its system to deal with hazardous wastes, Lorne Mick, former president of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, cautioned that the provision of physical treatment systems was only one part of effective waste

management. Generating and maintaining public awareness, he emphasized, is equally, if not more, important.

His comments introduced the "In Our Backyard" newsletter - then a new addition to the Corporation's diverse public information programs. Over the past decade, these programs have served to protect and improve Alberta's environment in many ways.

Ranging from education and skill training to direct involvement in waste minimization and practical assistance with research, the work of the Corporation has served to generate widespread awareness and encourage imaginative solutions.

To increase awareness of the Corporation's initiatives in the area of the 4R's - Reduce, Re-use, Recycle and Recover - a registered trademark, *WasteWise*, Better Solutions for Hazardous Waste, was developed in 1993. *WasteWise* will be featured on Corporation publications and programs to make these more easily identifiable to Albertans who are looking for solutions to some of their hazardous waste problems.

## *Programs*

### *Pesticide Container Program*

In 1989, ASWMC assumed responsibility for Alberta's Pesticide Container Collection and Disposal Program. On behalf of the Crop Protection Institute (an association of crop chemical manufacturers and distributors) the program, which is funded by the industry, involves the collection and recycling of some 750,000 pesticide containers annually from 106 permanent collection sites.

### *Oil Recovery Alberta*

Initiated as a joint venture between the Corporation and the United Farmers of Alberta, this highly successful program provided a convenient recycling option for the agricultural community. UFA agencies in more than 125 locations accept uncontaminated used oil and plastic containers. The oil is re-

refined. The containers are recycled. To date, 4.3 million litres of oil have been re-refined.

## *School Toxic Round Up*

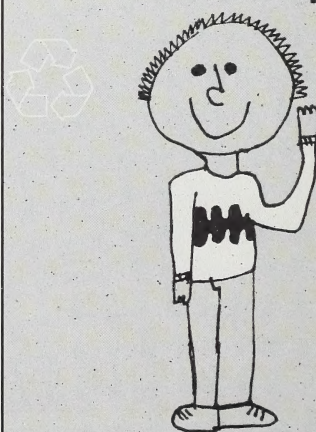
One of the most rewarding of the Corporation's involvements was its facilitation of the province-wide School Toxic Round Up in 1991.

The objectives of this one-time, province-wide program were to remove excess chemicals and hazardous wastes from schools and to assist schools in obtaining the information and expertise needed to effectively manage future wastes generated.

As part of the program, the Corporation produced a comprehensive booklet on chemical management which was distributed to school administrators, together with a series of fact sheets on the wastes encountered in specific areas of study - such as automotive and beauty culture.

It also assisted in training designated people from each school zone in chemical and waste handling. These key personnel were initially responsible for the packaging and removal of wastes from each school. They continue to provide valuable expertise by maintaining procedures for the proper management of school

## School Toxic Round Up



Funding by Alberta Lottery Fund



chemicals.

The School Toxic Round Up removed 4,000 – 205 L drums of hazardous materials from Alberta schools. Some 30-40 types of chemicals were recycled and approximately 1,000 drums of materials were treated at the Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre.

The School Toxic Round Up succeeded through the combined efforts of the ASWMC, Alberta Education, Alberta Public Safety Services, Alberta Environmental Protection, the University of Alberta, the RCMP, Chem-Security (Alberta) Ltd., private hazardous waste handling companies and Alberta school jurisdiction personnel. The program was financed by the Alberta Lottery Fund.

### ***Toxic Round Ups***

Toxic Round Up Alberta is a program to encourage householders to remove hazardous substances from households.

# **TOXIC ROUND UP ALBERTA**

A co-operative program with the



**Alberta  
Special Waste  
Management  
Corporation**

AN ALBERTA CROWN CORPORATION

The program provides Albertans with a voluntary alternative to dumping. At present, all household products can be disposed of down a drain or in a landfill, a situation which permits potentially hazardous materials to find their way into the environment.

By providing an environmentally sound disposal alternative, the

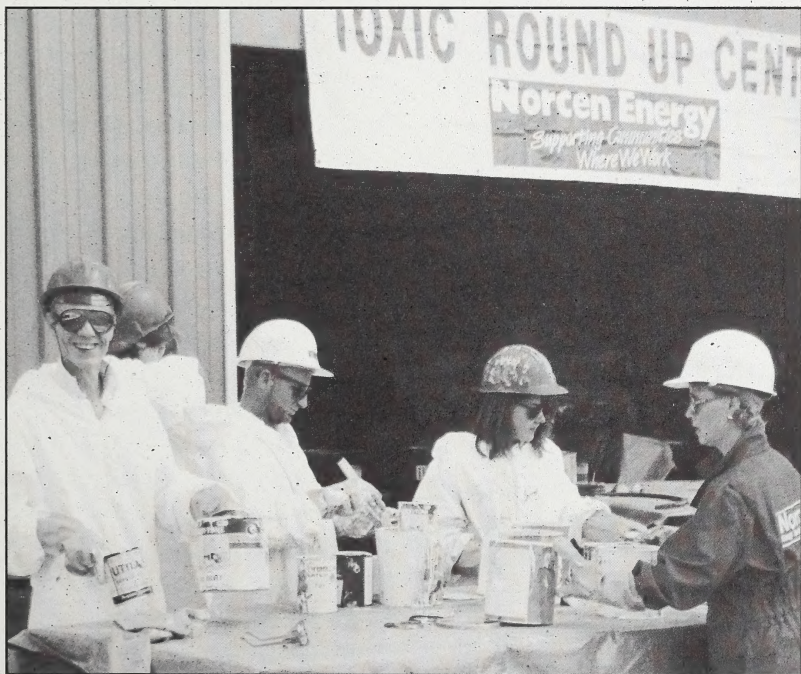
program seeks to effect behavioral change while increasing public awareness of potentially hazardous materials.

The program started in 1988 with eight communities participating. After operating for only two years, 130 communities had joined the program resulting in international recognition. In a 1990 comparison of public participation in Toxic Round Ups, both Edmonton and Calgary were listed among the top five cities in North America.

In April 1991, the Corporation announced that it was extending its commitment to the Household Toxic Round Up program for an additional three years. Throughout 1993 and 1994, municipalities will be responsible for the operational costs of the program (sorting, packing and transporting the waste) and the Corporation will continue to cover the cost of managing and treating the waste collected (the cost of the 1994 program is estimated at \$1.6 million).

In 1990, the Corporation paid 100 per cent of the operating and treatment costs for 130 participating communities. In 1991, cooperation between communities resulted in a larger per cent of participants at fewer Toxic Round Ups as several communities combined to hold single Toxic Round Ups to reduce costs. In 1992, communities financed two thirds of the operational cost, an increase from the one third financed in the previous year. Despite this, over 111 communities participated at 97 Toxic Round Ups in 1992. Working in cooperation with ASWMC and with neighbouring communities, these participants found ways to reduce operational costs by improving their own efficiency. In 1993, Toxic Round Up Alberta removed 2,636 drums of hazardous waste from the environment.

Even more important, through this program, proper household hazardous waste management is now accessible to over 80 per cent of Alberta's population. An encouraging indication can be found in the fact that, while the total



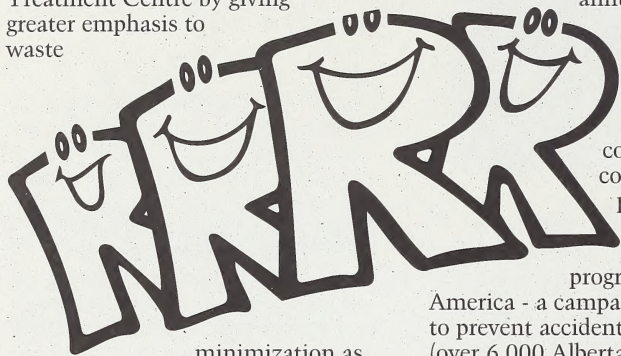
*The Corporation has been instrumental in encouraging citizens to participate in proper hazardous waste management through educational programs and community initiatives like the Household Toxic Round Up. Norcen Energy has supported the Toxic Round Up in selected communities since 1991.*



volume of wastes handled in the program is up, the volume of waste per participant is down. This suggests an improved awareness among individual Albertans and their greater use of alternatives and recycling options.

### **Waste Minimization and the Four R's**

In 1991, the Corporation responded to the increasing demands on the Treatment Centre by giving greater emphasis to waste



minimization as the preferred waste management strategy. Through television and print advertising, it stressed the "Four R's" of waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Recovery. In direct cooperation with waste generators, the Corporation suggested new ways of on-site neutralization or treatment.

The Waste Minimization program gained greater strength in 1992 when ASWMC combined with Alberta Environmental Protection, the provincial Action on Waste program, Alberta Public Works and the City of Red Deer (location of the pilot project) to produce detailed "Waste Minimization in the Workplace" fact sheets for small business in approximately 20 industry sectors.

Today, Waste Minimization efforts continue as vigorously as ever. ASWMC continues to offer professional direction to industries looking for ways to minimize waste - and assists in the establishment of more efficient chemical and hazardous waste management plans.

### **Great Drug Round Ups**

Alberta's Great Drug Round Up

started in 1981 and has grown from a single-city campaign to a very successful, annual, province-wide event supported by industry, government, professional associations and small business.

The Corporation joins the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, the Alberta Poison Centre, the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association and major drug wholesalers and manufacturers in organizing the annual Round Up.

This partnership of environmentally-conscious companies and concerned professionals has built one of the most successful

programs in North America - a campaign which seeks to prevent accidental poisoning (over 6,000 Alberta children are accidentally poisoned every year) and treat pharmaceutical wastes in a responsible manner.

In 1993, the Great Drug Round Up collected over 119 drums of outdated drugs and used veterinary drugs. Pharmacies and veterinary clinics participated as collection points for these potentially dangerous products.

All materials were collected for

treatment and disposal at the ASWTC.

## **Education Resources**

### **'There is a Better Way' Study Guide**

One of the most successful of all ASWMC initiatives has been the creation of its "There Is A Better Way" Study Guide, produced for community action groups and educators. The comprehensive guide - which includes slides, videotapes and other informational materials - answers questions about the generation and management of special wastes and demonstrates the ways in which individuals and groups can find waste management solutions in their own communities.

### **SWEEP**

The Special Waste Environmental Education Program was produced for school aged children in Kindergarten through grade 12. Divided into three modules, SWEEP begins with WasteWatchers, an activity book for students in Kindergarten - grade 2; the Big Backyard poster for grades 3 - 6 and In Our Backyard, a resource kit for grades 7 - 12.

The program was produced by Alberta environmental education specialists, FEESA, on behalf of the ASWMC. Its







objectives are to address the concerns associated with special waste and the solutions available in Alberta; and provide students with a fuller understanding of the balance between a sustainable economy which supports society and a sustainable environment which supports life.



## Rachel Woynorowski Holiday Greeting Card Contest Winner

The Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation is pleased to announce the winner of the annual Holiday Greeting Card Contest. Nine year old Rachel Woynorowski of Afton Elementary School, Edmonton, submitted the entry chosen by judges to reflect the theme of *WasteWise*. For her efforts Rachel will receive her original artwork framed, 50 cards for her personal use and a \$100 book token for her school. Well done!

All schools submitting entries to the contest will receive copies of *The Big Backyard*, an activity poster about hazardous waste management, for grades three to six.





Return postage guaranteed.  
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Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
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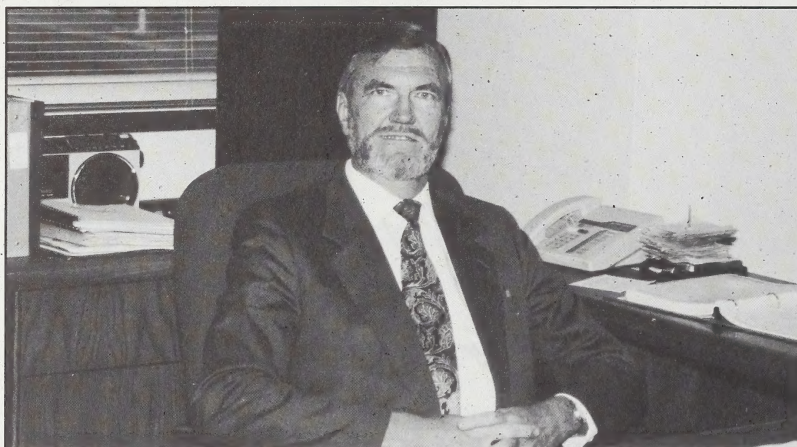
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Edmonton, Alta.

## A Fond Farewell



*This year, the Corporation bids farewell to retiring President and Chief Executive Officer Ken J. Simpson, who has been involved in the planning and operation of the system since its inception in 1984, and who took over the role of President in 1990. A professional engineer, Mr. Simpson has over 20 years' experience in environmental management and pollution control in the areas of consulting, contracting and government service both in Canada and overseas. He was closely involved in the development of the hazardous waste management program in Alberta since its inception and has been active in many innovative waste management projects including recycling, resource recovery and landfill regionalization. His leadership and vision for the hazardous waste management industry will be missed.*

"In Our Backyard" is a quarterly newsletter from the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation intended to keep Albertans informed on hazardous waste management issues and solutions.

This 10th Anniversary Edition offers a brief look at the Corporation's first ten years of operation and gives some background on the Alberta Special Waste Management System. If you would like more information, details of a specific program or service, or wish to receive future editions of this newsletter, please call ASWMC at 1-800-272-8873, or 422-5029 in Edmonton or fax your request to 403-428-9627.

## Call direct

- ◆ For information on hazardous waste management programs in Alberta
  - Toxic Round Ups
  - Community Study Groups
  - Waste Minimization**Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation**  
1-800-272-8873  
403-422-5029 (Edmonton)  
403-428-9627 (fax)
- ◆ To report an environmental emergency or to register a complaint  
**Pollution Control Division/Alberta Environmental Protection**  
1-800-222-6514
- ◆ For a directory of waste management companies in Alberta  
**Environmental Services Association of Alberta**  
403-439-6363 Edmonton  
Hotline  
(for small businesses)  
1-800-661-WASTE (9278)
- ◆ For information on recycling newspapers, metals, plastics, clothing  
**Alberta's Recycle Info Line**  
1-800-463-6326  
(Edmonton 427-6982)  
  
To access the clearinghouse that puts potential users of waste materials in contact with waste producers  
◆ **Alberta Waste Material Exchange**  
403-450-5408 (Edmonton)
- ◆ For information on the transportation of dangerous goods  
**Alberta Public Safety Services**  
1-800-272-9600  
(24 hours)



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